Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A speech processing apparatus comprising:

speech recognition means for performing speech recognition on input speech to produce a speech recognition result using acoustic models; and

natural-language processing means for performing natural language processing on ~~a~~ said speech recognition result ~~obtained from said speech recognition means~~, ~~wherein~~ said natural-language processing means ~~comprises~~ including

feedback means for feeding back information obtained as a result of the natural language processing performed on the speech recognition result to said speech recognition means, ~~and~~ said feedback information including adaptation zones,

wherein said speech recognition means comprises

adaptation process means for ~~performing~~ processing ~~based on~~ the information fed back from said feedback means to adapt the acoustic models so that said speech recognition means produces the speech recognition result with higher precision than when said adaptation process means is not used.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A speech processing apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ 1,

wherein said feedback means feeds back at least one of ~~speech recognition result~~ said adaptation zones which are to be used for the adaptation of the acoustic models and ~~speech recognition result~~ said adaptation zones which are not to be used for the adaptation of the acoustic models.

4. (Currently Amended) A speech processing apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ 1,

wherein said feedback means feeds back the speech recognition result which appears to be correct.

5. (Currently Amended) A speech processing apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ 1,

wherein said feedback means feeds back the reliability of the speech recognition result.

6. (Currently Amended) A speech processing apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ 1,

wherein said feedback means feeds back a task of the speech recognition result.

7. (Currently Amended) A speech processing apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ 1,

wherein said feedback means comprising feeding ~~feeds~~ back at least one of

(a) said adaptation ~~speech recognition result~~ zones which are to be used for the adaptation of the acoustic models,

(b) said adaptation ~~speech recognition result~~ zones which are not to be used for the adaptation of the acoustic models,

(c) the speech recognition result which appears to be correct,

(d) the reliability of the speech recognition result, and

(e) a task of the speech recognition result.

8. (Currently Amended) A speech processing method comprising:

a speech recognition step of performing speech recognition on input speech to produce a speech recognition result using acoustic models; and

a natural-language processing step of performing natural language processing on ~~a~~ said speech recognition result ~~obtained in said speech recognition step~~, ~~wherein~~ said natural-language processing step ~~comprises~~ including

a feedback step of feeding back information obtained as a result of the natural language processing performed on the speech recognition result to said speech recognition step, ~~and~~ said feedback information including adaptation zones,

wherein said speech recognition step comprises

an adaptation ~~a~~ process step of ~~performing~~ processing ~~based on~~ the information fed back from said feedback step to adapt the acoustic models so that said speech recognition step produces the speech recognition result with higher precision than when said adaptation process step is not performed.

9. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording a program which causes a computer to perform speech recognition processing, said program comprising:

a speech recognition step of performing speech recognition on input speech to produce a speech recognition result using acoustic models; and

a natural-language processing step of performing natural language processing on ~~a~~ said speech recognition result ~~obtained in said speech recognition step~~, ~~wherein~~ said natural-language processing step ~~comprises~~ including

a feedback step of feeding back information obtained as a result of the natural language processing performed on the speech recognition result to said speech recognition step, ~~and~~ said feedback information including adaptation zones,

wherein said speech recognition step comprises

an adaptation ~~a~~ process step of ~~performing~~ processing ~~based on~~ the information fed back from said feedback step to adapt the acoustic models so that said speech recognition step produces the speech recognition result with higher precision than when said adaptation process step is not performed.